Swami Ramanand Teerth Marathwada University, Nanded

Research proposal to be submitted for registration of Ph.d degree in political science under faculty of social sciences.

Changing dimensions of Indian federalism after 2014 : analytical study.

Researcher

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Guide

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Preface

India is the largest democracy in the world. Where people belonging to different cultures, religions and different languages reside. In this pluralistic society the interests of people are also different. Taking into consideration the framers of four Indian constitution opted for federal structure as a system of government. In the article one of the Indian constitution India is described as a 'union of States' rather than 'federation of a state'. According to Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar, the phrase 'union of States' has been preferred to 'federation of States' for two reasons: one, the Indian federation is not a result of an agreement among the states; and two, the states have no right to secede from the federation.

Second important feature of federalism in the Indian constitution is a three fold distribution of legislative subjects between the centre and the states i.e union list, state list and concurrent list in the 7th schedule of the Indian constitution.

The constitution of India establishes a federal system of government. However, the Indian constitution also contains a large number of unitary features like, strong centre, single citizenship, appointment of governor by president, all India services, emergency provisions etc. Hence the Indian constitution has been variously described as 'quasi- federal' by K.C Wheare, 'bargaining federalism' by Morris Jones, 'cooperative federalism' by Granville Austin and so on.

In federation with unitary bias system centre-state relation plays a crucial role. Provisions related to centre state relations are given in detail in part eleven and part twelve of the constitution of India. In part eleven administrative relations and legislative relations are given and in part twelve financial relations are given.

The relations between centre and States where smooth after independence till 1967, because of the dominance of one

political party in power, both at the centre and at the states, and national leadership was focused on Jawaharlal Nehru. In the general elections of 1967 the Indian National Congress secured a majority at the centre but it lost 20 years of monopoly as it lost its majority in many states leading to formation of non Congress governments in states like Kerala, Madras(Now Tamil Nadu), Orissa, West Bengal, Punjab etc. This changed the political scenario and heralded a new era in centre-state relations. The non-Congress governments in the states opposed the increasing centralisation and intervention of the central government. They raised the issue of state autonomy and demanded more power and financial resources for the states. This caused tensions and conflicts in the centre-state relations.

Issues which created tension and conflicts between the centre and States are,

- mode of appointment and dismissal of governor
- president rule
- sharing of finances (between centre and States) and so on.

Several attempts were made by the central government as well as State Governments to resolve conflicts and to improve centre-state relations. The first commission appointed by the Central Government was the Administrative Reform Commission(ARC) in 1966 under the chairmanship of Morarji Desai (followed by K.Hanumanthayya) to examine thoroughly the various issues in centre-state relations. ARC in its report made 22 recommendations for improving centre-state relations. But no action was taken by the central government on the recommendations of ARC. In 1983 the central government appointed A three member commission on centre state relations under the chairmanship of R.S. Sarkaria, a retired judge of the supreme court. The commission was asked to examine and review the working of existing arrangements between centre and States in all spheres and recommend appropriate changes and measures. The commission made 247 recommendations to improve centre

state relations. Most of the recommendations of the Sarkaria commission have been implemented by the year 2007. The most important is the establishment of the inter-state council in 1990.

The general elections of 2014 restored the de facto one-party government at the centre after two decades of coalition government. The BJP managed to capture a legislative majority in the Lok Sabha on its own. This research work provides a preliminary assessment of changes in Indian federalism due to change in government after 2014.

In India based on some declarations of Narendra Modi and commitment to 'cooperative federalism' in the BJP general election manifesto, Indian federalism would not necessarily centralise.

There have been real changes in the practice in the last few years. The implementation of 14th finance commission recommendations increased the state's share of Central taxation from 32 percent to 42 percent. Even more significant was passage of the goods and services tax act in 2017. The alignment of indirect taxation by central and state governments and removal of interstate tariff barriers are major States towards achieving a common market in India.

Another major institutional innovation related to federalism was abolition of planning commission and formation of NITI aayog as a top think tank and for providing a neutral platform for Central state dialogue and policy discussion.

My research work is focused on studying the changes in federalism and centre state relations because of these strategic decisions taken by the central government after 2014.

Problem statement:

Centralisation of power after 2014 has changed the attitude of the Central Government towards centre-state relations. So many strategic decisions related to centre state relations are taken by the

central government after 2014. The objective of his research is to study changes in Indian federalism after 2014.

Importance of study:

Importance of the research will be understood by following,

1. This research will help us to understand the importance of harmonious relations between centre and state for cooperative federalism.
2. With this research we will understand the structure of the Indian federation.
3. This research will provide study of evolution in centre state relations with changing political scenarios in India.
4. This research will help us to understand how centralisation of power is affecting centre state-relations especially after 2014.
5. This research will enable us to know the reality behind cooperative federalism.

Objectives of research:

1. To study the structure of Indian federalism.
2. To study the importance of harmonium coordination between centre and States for effective operation of the federal system.
3. To study the changes in Indian federalism.
4. To perform critical analysis of effects of centralisation of power on federalism.
5. To study the changes in Indian federalism after 2014.

Hypothesis :

1. for effective functioning of federal system corporation and coordination between centre and state is essential.
2. Centre state relations are influenced by partisan tension between the Central Government and States.
3. Demand of states for providing a greater economy is reasonable for improving centre state relations.
4. The structure of the Indian federal system has changed after 2014.

Research method:

For the presented research topic, by adopting the descriptive and analytical method of historical facts, published and recognised academic sources will be adopted for reaching the conclusion. It will include published books, published government documents, newspapers, magazines etc.

Research design:

Chapter one : Preface.

Chapter two : Conceptual review of federalism.

Chapter three : Constitutional provisions of Centre state relations in India.

Chapter four : Changing dimensions of centre Indian federalism after 2014.

Chapter five : Conclusion.

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